It is Government's endeavour that posts of HOMs are not kept vacant for unduly long periods. Though 11 of the vacancies have arisen only in the last 3 months, Heads of Mission have already been appointed for the following 10 countries: Afghanistan, Brazil, Cyprus, Cuba, Finland, Mauritius, Nigeria, Peru, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Seven of the HOMs will be in position by end of December, 1992; one in January 1993; one in February 1993 and one in June 1993.

For two of the remaining 5 vacancies, approval of the receiving Government is awaited for the proposed nominations and for the other 3, the process of filling up the posts is underway.

Violation of Companies Act, by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam

*52. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH :

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam violated the provisions of the Companies Act on Bond Issue; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Auditors in their Report annexed to the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), for the year ended 31st March, 1991, *inter-alia*, reported that "The Company has paid Rs. 14,57,25,000 as brokerage/commission (front end fees) to nationalised banks and their subsidiaries on private placement of bonds. According to the legal opinion obtained by the company the provisions of Section 76 of the Companies Act are not applicable to the Bonds issued by them".

Extradition of Prabhakaran to India

*53. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the issue of extradition of Prabhakaran to India;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with the Sri Lankan President during his recent visit to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The matter of making a formal request for extradition remains under the consideration of the Government. The matter was not taken up with the President of Sri Lanka during his recent visit to India, as the official positions of the Governments of the two countries are well known.

Increase in the cost of production of Chemical Fertilizers

*54. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of per unit production of Urea, Super phosphate and Muriate of Potash has gone up during the last two years due to the increase in the prices of gas, naphtha and other raw materials required for the production;

(b) whether Government have allowed Tata and Birla industrial houses to sell Urea at the higher prices from their newly set-up projects; and

(c) what measures Government propose to adopt to reduce the cost of fertilizers ?